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The Reverend Dr. DENNE's

Spittal - S E R M O N

Preached before the Right Honourable the

LORD-MAYOR,

THE

Court of Aldermen, &c.

On Tuesday in Easter-Week, April 8. 1740.

Salter Mayor.

Tuesday the 15th Day of April, 1740. and in the Thirteenth Year of the Reign of King GEORGE the Second of Great Britain, &c.

IT is Ordered, That the Thanks of this Court be given to the Reverend Dr. Denne, Archdeacon of Rochefter, for his SERMON preached before this Court, and the Governors of the several Hospitals of this City, at the Parish-Church of St. Bridget, on Tuesday in Easter-Week last: And that he be desired to print the same.

MAN.

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Spittal-SERMON

Preached before the Right Honourable the

LORD-MAYOR,

THE

Court of ALDERMEN,

THE

SHERIFFS,

AND THE

GOVERNORS Of the several Hospitals of the City of London,

AT THE

Parish-Church of ST. BRIDGET,

On Tuesday in Easter-Week, April 8. MDCCXL.

By JOHN DENNE, D. D. Archdeacon of Rochester.

LONDON:

Printed for J. and H. PEMBERTON, at the Golden-Buck against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet. MDCCXL.



MATT. VII. 12.

All Things what soever Ye would that Men should do to You, do Ye even so to them: For this is the Law and the Prophets.

Y Text is one Branch of Doctrine in our Bleffed Saviour's Sermon on the Mount: And well deserves the Place it has in that divine Discourse; for it is the first and clearest Principle in the Science of Morality or common Honesty; nay, in this fingle Precept all the Lines of Right, or Duty towards our Neighbour center, so that if it be but truly understood, and faithfully applied in every Case, it will be equivalent to all the Commandments of the Second Table.—— It does, indeed so far comprise whatever God has taught Us to do to one another by the Light of Reason, his Laws or his Prophets, that if all the Offices of focial Life, that are dispersed throughout moral or sacred Writers, were to be included in one full and common practical Rule; it cannot be done in fewer Words, and more comprehensive of all than those of my Text.-And that you may not err herein, I propose

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- I. First, To state the true Doctrine of them.
- II. Secondly, to determine its just Extent and Boundaries.
- III. Thirdly, To enquire into the general Reason and Equity of it.
- IV. Fourthly and Lastly, To shew the peculiar and manifold Advantages belonging to this Rule: And A 3 how

how much the Welfare of Mankind would be promoted by a constant and universal Regard to it.

I. First, Then I am to state the true Doctrine of my Text. Now the Words of it are all plain and intelligible: and the Doctrine contained in them would be so likewise, were but common Sense, and natural Conscience, to determine every Doubt without Sophistry or Prejudice. For this fingle Caution or Restraint seems to be sufficient; let but the Nature of Things, as to what is just and right, fit and reasonable, govern our own Desires and Actions; then let us place every other Person in our own Stead: and we shall not transgress our Duty to him. — Thus we shall never grant either too little, or too much: since our own Reason, when unbiassed, will always hinder us from finful or extravagant Compliances; whilst Self-Love prevents us from doing to another, what in our own turn we should be loth to feel.—— Let us but impartially confider what Treatment, we may in any Circumstances of Life fairly and justly expect from others: And we shall act most rightly, so long as we make our own fair and just Expectations the Standard of our Behaviour towards them; so that you need no other Paraphrase on my Text, than this. "What Things soever, when done by " others to you, your own Judgments shall without Corrup-"tion, Partiality, or Hypocrify commend, as done well, and " wisely, Go, and do likewise: And Go D and Man will " justify you."

Some Cases, indeed may offer, wherein we ought not to comply with others, even though we ourselves might perhaps in the same Circumstances desire the like Compliance; but the Reason is, because such a Compliance would be a Folly or a Sin both in Us and Them.— For Instance, ought a Person of a generous or charitable Spirit, on Pretence of being governed by this Rule, to gratify those who ask such Favours, as They in no wise merit,

or

or He can in Reason grant; though conscious that He himself might be so weak, as to make Requests not less extravagant, were he the Petitioner? No certainly——A real want of Merit, or extravagant Requests are Pleas sufficient to stop the over-slowings of the most generous, or charitable Soul; because we act both soolishly and wickedly whenever we are prosuse without Merit, without Reason, or beyond our own Abilities; even though we should wish to be indulged to a like unwise or criminal Excess.

But there is another Case much more common in social Life; and that is, when Men through a Love of strong Liquors have contracted an Habit of Intemperance, they then press others to drink, as they do. --- Now it may be, and too often is a Question among such drunken Companions, as are in modern Phrase, call'd bonest Fellows, whether they are not herein justified by the practical Precept of my Text? Since it is most sure, that they do, just as they would be done by. — However, are they willing that the fober Part of Mankind should treat them upon the same Principle?—— Would they not think the Measures of Sobriety too scanty for themselves? And yet the fober Man desires, that they would only mete with the same Measure to him. — And so they ought, and He to Them — for this Rule can only take place in Things, that by the Will of God are lawful, or expedi-It must extend to nothing foolish or wicked in its own Nature: Nor be subject to unnatural Affections, or inordinate Desires in ourselves or others. So that though this be a right Measure of social Intercourse one with another, yet it can be in Things only which are true, bonest, just, pure, lovely, virtuous or of good Report: for otherwise we should break through the first and bigbest of Obligations, by finning against God, and being Partakers of other Mens Sins. *

For

For the same Reason (to mention one Case more) a Jury is not at Liberty to acquit, nor a Judge to pardon desperate incorrigible Offenders, because were they themselves fuch, they should certainly desire to escape clear and unpunish'd—No.—As Magistrates are the Minifters of God*, they are in Duty bound to Him, both to their Country and the Innocent, not to bear the Sword in vain, but to execute the Severity of Justice, when there is in Reason no room for Mercy. - Not to say, but that the most hardened Criminal would think so, were he innocent himself: Nay, tho' he be guilty, he seldom fails to approve, even so far, the Righteousness of his Sentence, and of its Execution; that though the Love of Life, and the Dread of Death prompt him to procure an Acquittal, a Reprieve or Pardon, yet his own Conscience tells him, at the same Time, that He deserves none of them.—— Now these Instances well understood will direct every Man's private Judgment, as Circumstances arise, to determine without a Casuist any other of the like Nature; fo that I may now proceed,

II. Secondly, To settle the just Extent and Boundaries of the Precept in my Text.—— The Terms of it are universal, and unlimited both as to Things and Persons: And Reason and Scripture will extend the Meaning of them to the whole Compass of our Duty towards others; so as to take in not only all Matters of Justice and Equity in Trade and Business, but of Charity, Generosity, and even Civility in Company and Conversation. In Matters of Justice the Case is clear: Nor could any Man have a doubt, whether he ought not to be charitable, generous, and civil to others in every Thing, that can proceed from Compassion, Affability, Condescension, and Good-nature; if he would but reflect within himself how kindly, sincerely, respectfully and obligingly he hopes to be treated by them.— He must be a Stranger to an haughty and contemptuous Deportment towards

* Rom. Xiii. 4.

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towards others, who feels that Nothing can be more provoking to himself, than a slighting or insolent Behaviour, whether in Looks or Gesture, in Words or Actions. who will but confult his own Breast for the Price of a Goodname, will never want the Tenderness he ought to have for the Reputation of his Neighbour. He who is thoroughly fenfible of his own Offences through Ignorance, Mistake or Passion will need no other Motive to the Practice of that Wisdom or Charity*, which is not easily provoked, which suffereth long and is kind, which is peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, which is not only forbearing and forgiving, or without Partiality, but full of Merey and good Fruits. I may also add, that whoever will bring himself to sympathize with the poor, the needy and afflicted, will have the strongest Inducements from within himself to do good to them that are without, as he has Opportunity and Ability.—— He will indeed feel the Force, as well as perceive the Truth of what our Saviour said, it is more blessed to give than to receive +.

In short, (for it would be endless to run into Particulars) all Men in whatever Stations, Conditions, or Circumstances, Providence may place them, stand hereby oblig'd not only to give one another what is due in Reason and Conscience, but in good Nature or good Manners; because there is no one but must think, he hath a fair Claim and Title to such Treatment and Usage.— Which leads me,

III. Thirdly, To enquire into the general Reason, and Equity of the moral Rule in my Text.—— It carries indeed its own Light along with it, which makes the Equity of it is visible, as to need no Evidence, scarce an Hustration.—— All Men must agree to it in Speculation, however their Passions, Appetites or Interests may bass, and tempt them to break through it in Pra-B

^{* 1} Cor. xiii. 4. James iii. 17. Col. iii. 13. † Ali xx. 35.

Etice; for no one can except or object to it, but who must first deny, that Men have one Nature common to them all, derived from GoD the Father of all, through one, and the same Stock and Lineage, wherein we stand equally related: And therefore others being altogether such as ourselves, must have by the Laws of that Nature. whether of Reason or Humanity, an equal Claim to the same Dues, Rights, Kindnesses or Civilities, as we expect from them. The Reason for this Practice is the very same: as will force us in Speculation to affirm, that if one Line or Number be equal to another, that other must be reciprocally equal to it. So that not to do as we would be done by. and to believe a Contradiction, is a like Absurdity. shalt not have (saith Moses) in thy Bag, or in thine House divers Weights and Measures, a great and a small (one where-with to fell, and another where-with to buy) but thou shalt have a perfect and a just Weight: A perfect and just Measure shalt thou bave*. There must, as in mercantile Traffick, so in the social Commerce of human Life be one common, and fixt Standard of dealing; there must be a perfect Weight, and a just Measure whereby to weigh and measure every Part of our moral Conduct towards each other.—— And what better or indeed what other can we have, than the Standard in my Text, which is the Compendium and Substance of all Equity; the doing in all Cases and to all Persons, what we ourselves in Reason defire, that they if in our Places, and Relations should do to us? for being all Partakers of the same Nature, what Relation one Man in any Case bears to another; the same that other, if put into like Circumstances will bear to him. — Whatever is fit for, or due to one, must for the same Reason be sit for, and due to another-What is good for one, must be equally good for another in the same Condition; as what is evil for one, must be so for the other also. And consequently the Reason of the

[•] Deut. XXV. 13,-15.

the Thing being equal, there must be an unalterable Obligation upon all Men to do that right or good: And abstain from that Injury or Evil, which they in a like Case would approve or condemn, if done by others to themselves with Regard to their Life, Estate, or Reputation.— The Equity of fo doing, is indeed fo felf-evident and convincing, that no Man can ever deviate from it, without transgressing both the plain Law of his Being: and also acting against the Judgment of his own Mind, and the natural Inclination of his own uncorrupted Affections. -Besides, the universal Observance of it is the sole Means not only to maintain Peace and Happiness, or cement Society: but even to carry on Self-preservation in the World. -For how without it shall we Preserve ourselves? since if we love ourselves, Why? so does every one else: and therefore they can never be supposed to acquiesce in any Scheme which provides not equally for their Interest, or Happiness as ours.—— But to engage you more strongly to do to others what soever ye would that they should do to you; I shall under my

IV. Fourth and Last Head proceed to shew the peculiar and manifold Advantages belonging to this Rule of moral Action: and how much the Welfare of Mankind will be promoted by a constant and universal Regard to it.— And here I cannot but observe first, that it is a Rule, which since all Men ought to use, God hath suited it equally to the Capacities of all, nay, contrived to have it ready on all Occasions, so that we need go no surther for its Directions, than to our own Breasts.— It is both self-guident, and self-applicable: so that an bonest, and well-meaning Man may determine no less rightly by it, than the most discerning and upright Judge.— For none, but Fools or Madmen, can be so weak as not to know, what Usage they themselves expect, and desire at the Hands of others.— Every one can look into his own

Heart: and that will as clearly answer, as he can ask this plain Question, Would I myself be content to be thus dealt with by another: if not, Why should I deal so with him? Imagine the Point in Question to be as nice and difficult as possible: yet let a Man but make the Case really his own: and he will scarce ever judge, and do amiss. His prying Eye, enlightened and guided by Self-Interest. will feldom overlook one Scruple in the Balance, wherein his own Property is weighing against his Neighbour's: if so be he considers, when it is weighed, that his Neighbour may chuse, which Scale he pleases; as he ought to do. fince his Claim is equal.—— In thort, let him determine every Case as for himself, with this single Cansideration: and I dare say, his Neighbour will abide by such a Determination; nay, I believe, it will be as true and righteous, as if he had read over every Cafuift, or purchased Knowledge, at what it will cost in going thro' all our Courts of Justice and Equity,

But here it may be asked; How are the Measures of righteous dealing more clearly discover'd by this imaginary. Change of Rights and Persons? for when the Change is made: and we ourselves plac'd in the Condition, and Circumstances of other Men; must we not have a sound and extensive Judgment to discern, what is fit, or right, or reasonable to be done by and to ourselves, as well as by and to Them? but this Judgment we cannot have, without a thorough insight into the Nature and Relations of moral Things.— And therefore, of what more extraordinary Value, or Use is the Rule of my Text, than a plain Command for our doing to all Men, whatever is sit, right and reasonable.

Now it is without Question true; that my Text carries nothing more uncommon, or surprizing in its Doctrine, than that we should hart nobody by Word or Deed, but be true, just and charitable in all our Dealings.

But then the Principles of moral Good and Evil are

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so very clear, if not felf-evident, that a Man of the meanest Understanding, seldom mistakes about what is right, or wrong in Theory; but when we come to practice, Self-Love and Interest are apt to put a biass upon our Judgments.—— The Difficulty then is how to remove ourselves as Parties out of any Question. Now this may I think be done by looking upon every Man, as a second Self; and then supposing his Cause to be our own, or that we are to be so dealt with, as we deal with Him; for then these very Selfish Principles within us become of real Use, making us extremely cautious, (even whilst we have the Power of weighing our own Rights and Interests as well as His) how we put too much into one Scale, for fear it should be our Lot, (after his chufing as he ought) to have too little in the other. Nay, to borrow one Metaphor, or two more from trading, our Measures will be true Standard, and our Money right Sterling, when we consider, that with the same Measure we mete it will be measured to us again: and that we shall be paid in our own Coin. And thus this Change of Places, and Circumstances constitutes us, what we should in Reason be, (even in our own Cases) impartial Judges, without Pasfion, Prejudice, or Favour.——We thus become equally interested and biass'd in another Man's Case as in our own: and as we are quick-fighted enough to discern our own rightful Claims, the same Sagacity will prevent our mistaking bis; whilst Conscience all the while suggests to us with Shame and Reproach, that to do any thing to others, which we hate and would not have done unto ourselves, is so scandalous an Iniquity, or so false a Balance, as to be an Abomination both to God and Man*,

Nor is this the sole good Effect, which the *Precept* of my *Text* will have upon our Practice; for it will be not only a *Rule*, but a *Motive* to our Duty, *stirring* us always

Prov. zi. 1.

up to perform what it enjoins.—It will excite the Will and Passions, as well as correct the Judgment, and determine us to do, as we would be done unto, by the forcible Impulse of Self-Love.— We shall thereby be as strongly. and as quickly inclined to do good, and to abstain from Injuries in the Case of others, as in our own; for by this Change of Circumstances we create within our Breasts a Sense and Fellow-feeling of their Happiness or Misery: and shall thus become as ready and desirous to remove the one and increase the other, as we should be, were our own Happiness or Misery concerned. Every Kindness that we do will be done freely: and not extorted from us by like Importunities, as the Widow used in our Saviour's Parable*, before the could have her Wrongs redreffed by a Judge, who feared not God, neither regarded Man. - Our Alms in all Cases, where it is meet to do them, will be bestowed not grudgingly+, or of Necessity, but with a chearful Heart, and a liberal Hand. In one Word, we shall at all Times, and on all Occasions, do, as much as lieth in us, to make the Life of every one as easy and delightful, as we should wish our own in their Circumstances to be.

But Lastly, The beneficial Excellence of this Precept will appear in the best Light, and to most Advantage, if we shew how much it will, if conscientiously and universally observed, promote the Welfare of Mankind, both in their publick and private Relations.

As to what concerns the Publick; were Kings and all that are in Authority, (after the Example of Severus, one of the best and wisest of the Roman Emperors) to chuse this Precept, not only as a Motto the most ornamental of any they can write, and that in Letters of Gold, over the Gates of their Palaces; but as the invariable Standard of their

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[•] Luke xviii. 2. † 2 Cor. ix. 7.

political Conduct; they would then never fail to * govern, as they would be governed; which is the fame, as to think themselves Vice-Gerents to the Governor of the Universe in doing good: and in making their Power, how absolute soever, as like as possible to his Providence, an Universal Blessing.—Would they but consider that Liberty, Life and Property must be as dear to others as Prerogative and Power to themselves: and then seign in Imagination what their Fellow-Creatures must really suffer from any Injuries herein, their own Hearts would plead so strongly for their doing as they would be done unto, as to keep them not only from enslaving, destroying or plundering their Subjects, to serve any Schemes of Avarice, Ambition or Tyranny; but likewise from offering to any of them, the least private Hardship, that may not be justified by publick Good.

On the other hand, were Subjects all in their several Stations to act from Principles of Religion and Conscience according to this Christian Rule of moral Practice, which alters not with any Party, nor changes with any Ministry, nor tends to any Selfish Views; they would, I am persuaded, be never wanting through Envy, Ambition, or unreasonable Jealousies, in the most dutiful, thankful and quiet Obedience to fuch bigher Powers as both profess, and shew themselves to be no less watchful and tender of their Privileges, Rights and Interests, than of their own Dignity, Prerogative and Revenues.—And because Government is in the Nature of it a Burden, as well as an Honour, they would do all they could, (or as much, as if they themselves were in the same Places of Honour, Power and Profit) to preserve, if not the Profit, yet that Honour and Power to those who have the Rule over them, with-

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This was the Advice of the Favourite Minister Mecanas to the Emperor Augustus, as we read in Dion Cassius. Εν δ' εν το κεραλοίω φεάσω αν βεσα αν δοσα αν επισον πινα αρξαντα σε πριδιν εθαλόσης παιντα αυτός αυτό παγγελτ Θαλους, ετε τὸ όμας τήση, κὸ πάντα κατορθώσης. Lib. LII. p. 492.

out which no Government can be carried on; so as to make that Burden light and chearful to them, by joyning Heart and Hand (if not for their own, yet for their Country's Sake) in every Thing, that can tend to the publick Good; notwithstanding any personal Piques, or Disappointments on their own Part: or Mistakes and Failures on theirs in well-meant Counsels and Transactions.

Would all Members in Civil Society bring their several Transactions with one another to this unerring Test, there would be no Complaining in our Streets; for then the Life and Property of every Man would be as safe in his Neighbour's keeping as his own. We should thus have nothing to fear from Censoriousness, Calumny and Detraction, so long as we are fure, that all we can converse with. (however fond they may be of running up and down in Visits from company to company) will nevertheless not earry with them all the scandalous Stories they may pick up, or can invent, shooting out the most poisonous Arrows, even bitter Words; but will treat our Reputation with the same good Nature as their own: and with equal Concerns and Candor either conceal or palliate our Errors, or our Faults.— Were the fecret Springs of Action in every human Soul mov'd and directed by this Principle of doing nothing to others, but what we would have done unto our selves; Anger, Envy, Hatred, Malice or Revenge would find no Harbour in our Bojoms, because we should thus feel, how unreasonable, and unjust it would be to indulge those very Passions, which we cannot but condemn inothers: and of whose Attacks we have the acutest Resentment, when they are made upon our selves. --- How hateful would all the Sins and Tricks of Avarice, Cheating, Extortion and Unfaithfulness in private Dealings appear to us, if we would but make a Conscience of buying and selling by this Rule? —— There would no Man go beyond or defraud bis Brother in any Matter*, by Reason of his Necofficient

^{• 1} Theff. iv. 6.

ceffities or Weakness; if so be every Bargain and Contract were both made and executed by a constant Appeal to his own Mind, whether he was using others, as he would be used himself.

But to bring this general Application nearer home to the particular and affecting Occasion of this our solemn Meeting in the House of God; now in what Plenty must all the various Streams of Charity naturally flow from such a Fountain of doing Good, as our own Hearts will open, if we will but let them plead, (as we ought in Reason and Humanity to do) the Cause of our Fellowcreatures with like Equity and Tenderness our own?— The Rich would thus become as willing to distribute and communicate, as the Poor to ask or receive. The one would try their utmost to earn by honest Diligence and painful Industry a comfortable Livelyhood; whilst the others would never fail, according to their Ability, in all reasonable Offices of Relief to such, as cannot earn it.-How much lessen'd would be the numberless Miseries of Life, if every Man would but lend his helping Hands to make the rest of the World happy, with as much Readiness and Good-will as he would borrow theirs to make himself so? —— How much alleviated might be the Sorrows of all those, who are in Trouble, Pain, Need, Sickness, or any other Adversity; If they could but have the Pleasure of seeing every body around them, of so sympathizing a Temper, as to * remember them that are in Bonds, as if they were bound with them: and them which fuffer Evil, as if they were themselves also Members of the same Body, and, as it were, fuffering with them?——And fuch, I hope, to find in all, who shall either hear or read that true Report, which is now going to be made, from the several Hospitals within this rich and flourishing City.+ You

Heb. xiii. 3.
 + Here the REPORT was read, which is printed at the End of this Sermon.

You have in this Report a plain Narrative of Facts. which will inform you what Numbers are continually fent or coming into your Houses of Charity for Relief. under all that Variety of Evil and Mifery, in Mind, Body, and Estate, to which we ourselves, as well as they, are expos'd in this World of Corruption, Frailty, and Mortality, as in a State of Tryal and Probation for a better. wherein our Fidelity will be rewarded thro' the Mercies of GOD in CHRIST IESUS with everlasting Happiness. — Here is neither Art nor Eloquence made use of to beguile or entice you to Charity or Compassion. there need of any, for if you do but give Credit and Attention to what you have heard: and then imagine, what may really happen in human Life, their Case to be your own; your own Hearts and Consciences will plead for such Objects with more Force, and a more moving Eloquence, than any Words or Language in the Mouth of the most able or pathetick Orator. They will tell you honeftly, that the fame Good must be due to them, as we shall think due unto ourselves in like Distress: and then prevail effectually upon you, not to with-bold from them what is in your Power to do by fuch Supplies of Money, as will be equal to the Requests that are at the same time made in their behalf, by the Governors and Managers of these great and excellent Charities; who have likewife, from the Precept of my Text, a right at least, to our Praises and our Thanks, for the Integrity, Care, and Pains of their Oeconomy.

Could then the Preachers of the Gospel, but bring all within this City, who, in the prophetick Language of Amos (chap.vi.) lye upon Beds of Ivory, and stretch themselves upon their Couches, and eat the Lambs out of the Flock, and the Calves out of the midst of their Stall; — Who chaunt to the Sound of the Viol, and invent to themselves Instruments of Musick; — Who drink Wine in Bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief Ointments; — Could we, I say,

fay, but bring these who, in the modern Phrase, have an Elegant Taste of Life, to have likewise such a Sense of Humanity, as will feel and be grieved for the Afflictions of their Brethren; I make no doubt, but that Righteousness would run down as Water, and Charity in such a mighty Stream, as would refresh and make glad the Dwellings of the miserable, at all times, even as we have lately seen, when the rich were taught by what they felt, that it was not possible for the poor, without the warmest Support from them, to abide God's Frosts. Could we but persuade those who live at Ease in Power, Wealth, and Plenty, to leave their high, affluent, and happy Stations; I mean, no longer than just to cast an Eye of Pity upon those of their own Species, whose Souls are perishing for want of Instruction or Correction; as likewise upon those, whose Bodies lye in the lowest Places of Distress, either in a starving Condition, or under a terrible Distraction of Mind, or in the utmost Agonies of Pain, or on the Bed of languishing from acute and chronical Distempers, without the common, tho' cheap Necessaries of Life, as well as without Medicines to beal their Sickness. Could we, I say, but persuade such as these, who seem to have contracted an unnatural Infenfibility, by being lifted up, like Heathen Deities, thro' Self-conceit or Flattery, above all Acts of Humanity; to condescend, as the Son of Go D inearnate really did, to vifit in Person all the Scenes of Want, Misery, and Misfortune in low life: Or could we but represent these Scenes in Expressions so lively and affecting, as to make them see, hear, and feel, even in Thought, what (as I may fay to the highest of mortal Men) their own Flesh and Blood do suffer in the Persons of others, or may fuffer in their own; should the over-ruling Providence of God (which maketh * poor and maketh rich, which bringeth

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* 1 Sam. ii. 7.

bringeth low and lifteth up) either try their Virtues, or punish their Vices in the Furnace of Affliction, by the Changes and Chances of this Life. — Would they, I fay, when in this State of just Humility; or true thinking but frame to themselves, in Imagination only, such an Alteration of Place and Circumstances, as may, for ought they can know, come to pass hereaster in reality: and then fet themselves to consider, what Relief they might then in Reason expect, from such as are abundantly able to give it.— They would need neither Arguments nor Motives from the Law, the Prophets, or the Gospel, to put on Bowels of Compassion, Tenderness, and Mercy; they would, without these, be more forward and willing of themselves to minifler (as God hath enriched them) according to their Pow-. er; yea, and beyond their Power, if the Case be pressing, out of this World's transitory Goods towards their Support and Confolation. — Their Alms would be as extensive as the Mileries before their Eyes: and as chearfully bestowed as their Sense of them was acute.——Self-love alone, without the Love of God, or the Hopes of his Favour, would determine, I might say constrain, them to abound unto the Riches of their Liberality; so far as such a Constraint will not destroy the Virtue of good Actions.— Their own Nature, if buman, could not relist those Sentiments of Humamty, which God has planted in all our Souls: and which fuch Objects will naturally excite, without even Thought or Reflection.—They could never enjoy themselves till they had eased others; they would shudder at the possible Approach of like Evils to themselves, which they saw others, in their own Likeness, suffer.—They would then look upon the Case of all who are in Necessity and Tribulation, not as a common Case, to be passed by, but as their own: and thence be touched with the feeling of their Infirmities, Wants, and Calamities; and, when touched, would succour, help, and comfort them, as if they were Members of their own Bodies, so as to become Eyes to the Blind,

Blind, Feet to the Lame, and Understanding to the Lunatick or Ignorant.

In few Words, were They, who are rich in this World, but to act according to the Sense and Truth, that is in the great Rule of Reason and Religion in my Text; could they be induced to do to others all Things whatfoever they would have others do unto themselves; they would then need no Charge from the Apostle to be rich in good Works.*—They would be ready to distribute, and willing to communicate + of their own accord (as God shall give them his Blessing) out of this World's Goods, which are too apt to lead the irreligious and worldly-minded into Temptations and Snares, till they abuse them to their own Destruction and Perdition ||. They would be disposed in the Spirit of their own Minds, to spare what they can in Reason to pious and charitable Uses, out of that Provision it may become them to make for themselves and Families, in those bigh or rich Stations of Life, to which Providence shall raise them: or rather what they will think and wish in their own Consciences that they had spared from the Lusts of the Flesh, the Lusts of the Eye, or the Pride of Life, when God shall bring them into Judgment for all these Things.—There is, as I would fain believe, for the Honour of Mankind, no Dives living ‡, no Wretch so covetous or luxurious as He was; but who would pity, and comfort Lazarus, even without being brought to his Senses by the Torments of Hell, could he but be brought on Earth to imagine himself in Lazarus's Circumstances.— He could not then bear the Thought of being so cruel and hard-hearted, as to see his Neighbour lying at his Gate in Lazarus's Distress, full of Sores, and ready to perish with Hunger, Thirst or Cold: and yet deny him, as Dives did, the Scraps of his sumptuous Table, a Cup of Water out of his Well; a cast-off Garment

^{• 1} Tim. vi. 17. + Ver. 18. | Ver. 9. ‡ Luke xvi. 19, &c.

out of his Wardrobe, or a healing Medicine out of his Stores, which his very Dogs afforded Lazarus from their Tongues.— Now as the Reason of the Thing must be the same in all other Cases of Distress as that of Lazarus; I cannot but hope, that all who hear me, will, as they have Ability, and the Opportunities now offered, go and do, not like Dives in the Parable; but like the good Samaritan in the Gospel, that is, as they would be done unto; though here I must observe, that this Reasoning will hold much stronger for spiritual, than bodily Charities to our Neighbours; if, as Job expresses it *, we put our Souls in their Souls Stead.

But to conclude, were this fingle christian Precept in my Text religiously and universally observed in such a constant Intercourse of just and good Offices, as it will dictate to all who are united in the common Bonds of Humanity; it would make them all as happy as it is possible for Men to be in this State of Imperfection, Frailty, and unavoidable Evils. For nothing hinders us from arriving actualh at such a Degree of Happiness, but a most unreasonable, and perverse Violation of it. --- Since every Manwould thus become a Friend, a Benefactor, a good Angel, nay a . God unto his Fellow-Creatures; none of whom would be unhappy, if it were in human Power to make them otherwise. — This disconcerted and troublesome World would by this Means be changed once more into a Paradife; it would be full of good Works. ——We should hear no Complaints of Fraud or Violence; Mercy and Truth would meet together every where: and Righteoufness and Peace would kiss each other. The Poor would neither envy nor repine, whilst the Rich were dispersing the Necessaries and Conveniencies of human Life, far and wide in like reasonable Proportions, as they could expect them, if they were Pwr; so that our Happiness on Earth would

· Job zvi. 4.

would be exceeded by that of Heaven alone, where there shall be no more Want, Sickness or Pain: and from whence all Pride, Vain-glory, Envy, Hatred and Malice with all Uncharitableness shall be banished, and be succeeded by such an universal Benevolence, as will make us to be all of one Mind and of one Soul, and to take equal Delight in the common Felicity of all our Fellow-Creatures, as in our own. To which infinitely happy State may God in his Mercy and Goodness bring us all, whether High or Low, Rich or Poor, thro the Merits and Mediation of his Son, who has made us all Joint-beirs with Himself to the Kingdom of Heaven: and has promised to conduct us to it by his Holy Spirit; whose Fruits are Love, Joy and Peace, with all Goodness, Righteousness and Truth.

+ Gal. v. 22. Epbef. v. 8.



A True REPORT of the great Number of poor Children, and other poor People, maintained in the several *Hospitals*, under the pious Care of the Lord-Mayor, Commonalty and Citizens of the City of *London*, the Year last past.

CHRIST'S Hospital.

HILDREN put forth Apprentices, and discharged out of Christ's Hospital the Year last past 136; Nine whereof being instructed in the Mathematicks and Navigation, were placed forth Apprentices to Commanders of Ships, out of the Mathematical School Founded by his late Majesty King Charles the Second of blessed Memory.

Children Buried the Year last past.

Children now remaining under the Care and Charge of the said Hospital, which are kept in the House and at Nurse elsewhere 1138

1020, and 118 newly admitted, amounting in all to

The Names of all which are registred in the Books kept in the said

Hospital, and are to be seen, as also when and whence they were admitted. That the Revenue of the Hospital having greatly suffered by several dreadful Fires in and about London, and otherwise, and the Governors having been at vast Expence, for accommodating poor Orphans, in Purchasing and Building of convenient Houses, or Nurseries, at Hertford and Ware for their Reception, and in maintaining of Masters, Ushers, and other proper Officers there: And the Sick Ward in the faid Hospital having by Length of Time become ruinous, and in great Danger of falling, hath unavoidably occasion'd the re-building of the same, which has been finished at a very great Expence of the Money of the said Hospital: And the annual Increase of Children having made it absolutely necessary for the Governors to engage in the new Building of two additional Wards for the said Childrens Reception, which said Buildings have been likewise finished at the like Charge and Expence of the said Hospital: And the Hospital's Revenue, without casual Benefactions, being not sufficient to defray the Charge of maintaining so large a Number of Children as they do, together with the great Expence of the said new Buildings. It is therefore therefore to be hoped, and wished for, that in Regard to a Work so charitable, useful and commendable: Being for the Relief of necessitous Orphans and Infants, the Advancement of the Christian Religion, and the Good of the Kingdom. All charitable and worthy good Christians will readily and liberally contribute to the Support and Encouragement of so good and pious a Work.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S Hospital.

HERE have been Cur'd and Discharg'd from St. Bartholomew's Hospital the Year last past of wounded, maimed, sick and diseased Persons out of this great City and other Parts of his Majesty's Dominions and Foreign Parts 4896, many of \$\rightarrow 4896 them relieved with Money and other Necessaries at their Difcharge to accomodate them in their Return to their several Habitations. Buried this Year after much Charge in their Illness -Remaining under Cure at the Charge of the faid Hospital -So that there are and have been under the Care of the faid Hospital, the Year last past, of poor, sick and lame Persons, destitute of >5983 all other Relief, in all -This Hospital having happily escaped the great Fire of the City of London, the Buildings thereof were by length of Time become very ruinous and dangerous, for which Reason the Governors, by a voluntary Subscription amongst themselves and other charitable Persons, have already new built and finish'd one Pile of Building, consisting of a large Hall for the Rofort of the Governors at general Courts, a Compting-House for the meeting of Committees of Governors for the Dispatch of the Business of the Hospital. several Rooms for the examining, taking in, prescribing for, and discharging of Patients, and other necessary Offices regarding the Poor; and have also new built, and near finished and furnished, another Pile of Building confisting of Twelve Wards, to hold Two Hundred Beds for the Poor and their Nurses. And as most of the old Wards are likewise become very ruinous, the Governors, encouraged by the many charitable Donations already given, entertain Hopes of a Continuance thereof, to forward so good a Design, by enabling them not only to finish and furnish the present new Pile of Building for Patients, but also to attempt the Building another Pile of Building for the fame good Use, according to a Plan prepared for that Purpose, which will make the whole Hospital, when compleated, more regular and more useful, and make room for the Reception of a greater Number of Patients.

But as it is impossible for the Governors to finish that Undertaking without the liberal Contributions of pious and well-disposed Persons; and for that the constant Annual Charge of maintaining and relieving the great Number of Poor now in the Hospital, much exceeds the Revenue thereof.

thereof, the charitable Affistance of all Persons disposed to encourage so beneficial Helps to the Poor, are humbly desired to enable the Governors as well to support the present Charity as to accomplish the further Enlargement thereof; a Charity very necessary for preserving the Lives of so many miserable People, who would otherwise perish, were it not for that Relief which by the Blessing of God, they daily receive from the said Hospital.

ST. THOMAS'S Hospital.

"HERE have been Cured and Discharged from St. Thomas's. Hospital in Southwark, this last Year, of wounded, maimed, fick and difeafed Persons 6057, many of whom have been relieved with Money and Necessaries at their Departure to accommodate and support them in their Journies to their several Habitations . Buried from thence this Year, after much Charge in their Sickness 261 Remaining under Cure at the Charge of the faid Hospital -So that there are and have been this Year, of poor miserable Objects under the Cure of the faid Hospital, and destitute of other >7071 proper Cure, in all-The Numbers of Persons constantly relieved in this Hospital being so large as from the above and other Annual Accounts appears, the Provifions of Food and Physick, and the Care of able Physicians and Surgeons and other requisite Affiffance, occasion a great and continual Expence, and the Hospital also frequently requiring large Repairs and Rebuildings, the whole certain Revenue falls extremely short of defraying the neceffary Charges; and yet by the Bounty of pious and well-disposed Perfons, this Charity has not only been long supported but much enlarged. It is therefore humbly recommended to Persons alike pious and benevolent, that they will be pleased to enable the Governors, by charitable Contributions, to go on in relieving the Distresses of the maimed and diseased poor, so that they may be preserved and made useful Members of the Publick.

BRIDEWELL Hospital.

RECEIVED this last Year into the Hospital of Bridewell
Vagrants and other indigent and miserable People, all which
have had Physick, and such other Relief, at the Charge of the
said Hospital, as their Necessities required

Maintained in the said Hospital, and brought up in divers Arts
and Trades at the only Charge of the said Hospital, Appren-

D 2

BETH-

A True REPORT, &c.

BETHLEM Hofpital.

A DMITTED into the Hospital of Bethlem this last distracted Men and Women	Year, }	170
Cured of their and Lunacy, Discharged thence the said Yes veral of which were relieved with Cloathing and Mos	ar. se-7	
their Departure Distracted Persons buried the last Year, after much Char stowed upon them in their Lunacy and Sickness		49
Now remaining in the faid Hospital under Cure, and profession with Physick, Diet and other Relief, at the Charge faid Hospital	of the	225
Besides which divers Persons who have been cured in the are provided with Physick, as Out-Patients, at the Charter provided with Physick, as Out-Patients, and the Charter provided with Physick, as Out-Patients, and the Charter provided with Physick, as Out-Patients, and the Charter provided with Physick, and the Charter provided with Physick, and the Charter provided with Physick provided with		
Hospital, to prevent a Return of their Lunacy. The Particulars of all which may be seen in the Boo	ks of the	faid

Hospital.

There are generally above 200 distracted Persons maintained in the Hospital of Bethlem, and though new Patients are from time to time admitted in the Room of those, who, by the Bleffing of God, are cured and discharged; yet there are continual Applications made to the Governors for Admission of others; and in order to make Room for such as may probably be restored to their Senses, the Governors are obliged to reject, and turn out many, who, upon Examination, or after some Time of Trial, appear to be incurable, and whose Case is therefore the more deplorable as to themselves, and often dangerous to others.

Some Benefactions having been lately given to the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, to be applied to the Use of incurable Lunaticks, and the Governors having obtained a Grant from the City of some additional Ground in Moorfields, Two Buildings have been erected and finished, the one at the East End of the said Hospital for incurable Men-Patients, and the other at the West End for incurable Women-Patients; and there are already 85 admitted. But inafmuch as the Annual Revenues of the faid Hospital do not near answer the present Annual Charge, there will be no Means of supporting an additional Expence for Incurables, without the Contribution of charitable Persons; and this seems to be the only necessary Charity for which a Provision is wanted in this Noble CITY.

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LONDON WORK-House.

A true Account (for the Year last past) of the Work-House in Bishopsgate-Street, Erected pursuant to an Act of Parliament made in the 13th and 14th Years of the Reign of King Charles II. which Account ends the 25th of March, 1740.

CHILDREN in the House at Lady-Day, 1739	70
Since admitted	34
	104
Discharged and put forth Apprentice, or to Service in several good Families	23
Buried ————————————————————————————————————	8
Buried Remaining at Lady-Day, 1740	73
	104
These are religiously educated according to the Usage of the Charof England; and are employed in spinning Wool, sewing and knitti. They are dieted and cloathed, and duly taken Care of in Sicking They are taught to read, write, and cast account, whereby they qualified for Services and honest Employments; and have Money gowith them when put forth Apprentice, if Benefactors or Feeen Children of the City of London.	ing: ness: are iven
last past, were 303, and 51 remained at Lady-Day, 1739.	354 308

These Vagabonds, Beggars, &c. have proper Relief, and are employed in beating Hemp and washing Linnen; who by God's Bleffing and these Means, have been brought to a right Sense of their Crimes; and many

Remaining at Lady-Day, 1740

354

many of them have reformed, and used an honest Industry afterwards

for their Livelyhoods.

Of the Children here educated fince the Year 1701, there hath been discharged and placed forth Apprentice to Officers of Ships, to Trades, and to Service in several good Families, (besides those mentioned in the present Account) two thousand six hundred and forty; and within that Time eighteen thousand six hundred and forty sive Vagabonds, Beggars, &c. (among which were several notorious Impostors, pretending to be lame, dumb and blind) have been committed, and punished with Consinement and hard Labour in the Manner above-mentioned.

Of the Children there has died three hundred and three, and of the

Vagabonds two hundred and two.

The Children and all others in this Work-House, are required to attend Divine Service Morning and Evening, which (in a convenient Place) is there regularly and duly performed.

BY the afore-mentioned Act of Parliament. Power is granted for the President and Governors of this Corporation, (without License in Mortmain) to purchase or receive any Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, not exceeding the yearly Value of three thousand Pounds, of the Gift, Alienation or Devile of any Person or Persons; and any Goods, Chattely, or Sums of Money whatfoever, to be applied to the Uses aforefaid. But as yet the present real Estate belonging to the said Corporation (befides the Ground on which the Work-House is situate) amounts to little more than one hundred Pounds per Annum; and the necessary Expence far exceeding the yearly Income, has very much increased the Debts of the House, and prevented the farther good Designs intended thereby: It is therefore humbly hoped, good and well-disposed Persons will be pleafed to encourage and charitably affift this most useful and beneficial Work; that so, for the future, it may be rendered more serviceable to the Publick, and carried on with great Success: By which Means poor destitute Children will be educated, maintained, and employed, and kept from the Distress and Miseries those suffer who want such an Education: And pilfering and other stroling Vagrants, sturdy Beggars, lewd Night-walkers, and such other idle disorderly Persons, being punished with Confinement and hard Labour, may (from those evil and very pernicious Practices) be thereby corrected, restrained, and reform-

N. B. By a late Act of Parliament, this Corporation can receive no farther Help by Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments.

The Premises are most humbly recommended to your pious Consideration.

GOD's Providence is our Inheritance.

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BOOKS printed for John and Henry Pemberton, at the Golden-Buck in Fleetstreet.

I. HE Wisdom and Goodness of God in the Vegetable Creation: A Sermon preached in the Parish-Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, on Whitsun-Tuesday, May 19. 1730.

II. The Wisdom and Goodness of God in the Vegetable Creation, further consider'd: In a Sermon preached in the Parish-Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, on Whitsun-

Tuesday, May 15. 1733.

III. The Bleffing of a Protestant King and Royal Family to the Nation. A Sermon preached before the House of Commons at St. Margaret's Westminster, June 11. 1737. Being the Day of his Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne.

IV. A Sermon preached in Lambeth Chapel, on Sunday, January 15. 1737. at the Confectation of the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas Lord Bishop of Bangor. Published by Command of his Grace, the Lord

Archbishop of Canterbury.

V. The only fure Way to Success in War: Shewn in a Sermon preached in the Parish-Church of St. Mary, Lambeth, upon Jan. 9. 1739-40. Being the Day appointed for a General Fast, in order to obtain of Almighty God Pardon for our Sins, and to implore his Blessing and Assistance on our Arms in the War against Spain.

These Five by John Denne, D. D. Archdeacon of Rochester, and Rector of Lambeth.

VI. The Use and Intent of Prophecy in the several Ages of the World, in six Discourses, delivered at the Temple-Church in April and May, 1724. Published at the Desire of the Masters of the Bench of the Two Honourable

BOOKS printed for J. and H. Pemberton.

able Societies. To which are added Four Differtations: I. The Authority of the Second Epistle of St. Peter. II. The Sense of the Antients before Christ upon the Circumstances and Consequences of the Fall. III. The Blessing of Judah, Gen. xlix. IV. Christ's Entry into Jerusalem. The Third Edition corrected. Price 4s. 6d. VII. A Sermon preach'd before the Trustees of the In-

firmary in James-street, Westminster, April 26. 1735.

VIII. A Sermon preach'd before the Society corresponding with the Incorporated Society in Dublin, for promoting English Protestant Schools in Ireland, at their Meeting in the Parish-Church of St. Mary Le Bow, on Friday, March 17, 1737-8.

These by the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas Lord Bishop of Salisbury.

IX. A Collection of Tracts, Moral, and Theological: Placed in the Order wherein they were first published, viz. I. A Letter to a Deist. II. The Foundation of moral Goodness. Part I. III. The Foundation of moral Goodness. Part II. IV. Divine Rectitude. V. A Second Letter to a Deist. VI. The Law of Truth. With some additional Notes, and a Supplement concerning Rectitude.

X. Five Sermons on the following Subjects: Viz. I. The extreme Folly and Wretchedness of an Atheistick Inclination. II. God's Government of the World, a sure and most joyful Truth. III. The Dignities and Distinctions of human Nature. IV, and V. Natural and moral Proofs of a suture State. Preached in the Country, and published at the Request of a Friend. The Second Edition corrected. To which is now added an Assize Sermon, formerly preach'd and printed at Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Two last by John Balguy, M. A. Vicar of North-Allerton in Yorkshire, and Prebendary of Sarum.

N. B. The Affize Sermon may be had separate.

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